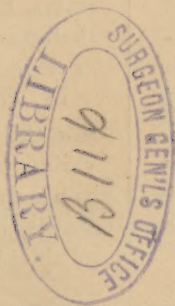


Instructions + + + + +



INSTRUCTIONS

ISSUED BY THE

SIXTH DECENNIAL CONVENTION

FOR THE

REVISION OF THE PHARMACOPOEIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO THE

COMMITTEE OF REVISION AND PUBLICATION

APPOINTED BY THE SAME.

I. General Principles to be followed in Revising the Pharmacopœia.*

1. *Language*.—The text of the U. S. Pharmacopœia is to be written in the English language; but the titles of the official substances and preparations are to be given, as heretofore, both in Latin and English.

2. *Alphabetical Arrangement*.—The present division into "Materia Medica" (comprising a Primary and Secondary List) and "Preparations" is to be abolished, and all articles are to be arranged in a continuous alphabetical order, retaining, however, such headings as Extracta, Extracta Fluida, Decocta, Infusa, etc., wherever it may be found useful to give general directions referring to the whole class. At the same time all formulæ for the preparation of the single members of each class shall be made complete in themselves.

3. *Synonyms*.—The different headings shall be accompanied, in a manner not interfering with the perspicuity of the text of the formulæ, by a list of synonyms in common use.

4. *Cross-References*.—At the end of each article a short paragraph is to be added, giving the names of all the preparations into which the substance or preparation, treated of in the article, enters.

5. *Descriptions of Crude Drugs*.—To all crude drugs, of animal or vegetable origin, concise but complete descriptions are to be added, sufficient to indicate the distinctive characteristics visible to the naked eye, and, when necessary, such as are visible under an ordinary good pocket lens, magnifying about 10 diameters. Where external and visible properties are insufficient to properly characterize the substance (as in the case of gums, resins, balsams, etc.), it shall be further defined by its physical and chemical properties.

The botanical names of plants shall be accompanied by the name of the author, but all therapeutical discussion shall be omitted.

6. *Descriptions of Chemicals*.—All mineral substances, or chemical preparations, except those where differences in process produce different results, are to be described and defined by concise and complete tests of identity and purity, without giving processes. Processes for the preparation of Morphia, Quinia, and the other alkaloids are to be omitted, but the articles "Opium" and "Cinchona" shall be accompanied with detailed processes of assay for the alkaloids; and the minimum percentage of total alkaloids to be required in Cinchona, and their minimum and maximum percentage of Morphia in Opium shall be prescribed in the Pharmacopœia.

N.B. A resolution was adopted that the Committee of Revision consider with great care the words used in the preceding section.

7. *Chemical Formulæ*.—All chemicals of a definite composition should have their primary rational [thus: Acetic Acid: $\text{HO}, \text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$; $\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$] formulæ added, both according to the old and to the new notation, together with their atomic or molecular weights. The formulæ according to the new nomenclature should be distinguished by prominent type.

8. *Processes for Chemicals*.—In the case of those chemical preparations, where different processes yield

different results, the process to be followed in each case shall be described in detail.

9. *Parts by Weight*.—All measures of capacity shall be abandoned and quantities shall be expressed in *parts by weight*; except that in the matter of Fluid Extracts, the Committee of Revision and Publication shall have authority to adopt such process or processes as shall seem to it best.

10. *Formulæ of Preparations at present official*.

a. All such tinctures, wines, etc., in which a slight variation of dose is of no importance, are to be made as nearly as possible of a uniform percentage strength; that is, 1 part of the drug is to be made into 5 parts of tincture, etc., or into 10 parts of tincture, as the case may be.

b. In the case of highly active preparations, as *Tinctura Aconiti Radicis*, *Tinct. Nucis Vomicae*, *Tinct. Opii*, *Tinct. Veratri Viridis*, the present strength is to be as nearly as possible retained; but in the liquid Opium preparations, excepting Paregoric, the strength of 10 per cent shall be adopted, if found advisable.

11. *Numerical Relation of Quantities*.—The quantities, or parts by weight, of the ingredients entering into a composition, are to be expressed in the simplest possible terms; and, whenever possible, in a centesimal ratio.

12. *Temperature* shall be expressed both in degrees of Centigrade and in degrees of Fahrenheit, thus: $00^\circ \text{C.} (= 00^\circ \text{F.})$

13. *Definitions of Physical Properties*.—Varieties and degrees of color, consistence, transparency, fineness of powders, etc., shall be as closely defined as possible.

14. *Specific Gravity*.—A uniform method for taking the specific gravity of liquids shall be prescribed.

15. *Definite Expressions of Weight*.—Whenever it is necessary to employ definite expressions of weight, as for instance, when it is directed that a pill mass is to be divided into pills containing a certain weight of one or more constituents, this weight is to be expressed both in metrical and in apothecaries' weight.

16. *Weight of Finished Product*.—In those formulæ (for Syrups, Infusions, Elixirs, etc.), in which fixed quantities of ingredients are directed to be combined under circumstances which may involve a partial loss of any of the ingredients, as, for instance, where a variable amount of water may be lost by evaporation, the weight of the intended finished product should be specified, and when practicable should be brought up to 100 parts.

17. *Doses*.—All doses are to be omitted from the Pharmacopœia.

18. *Tables to be appended to the Pharmacopœia*.

a. List of new Additions.

b. List of Articles dropped from the last Pharmacopœia.

c. List of Changes of Latin official Names.

d. List of Changes of English official Names.

e. Table of Weights and Measures.

*For the sake of clearness and easy reference, the amendments adopted by the Convention have been at once incorporated into the sections to which they belong; and the resolutions have been arranged in a different order from that in which they were originally adopted.

f. Table of Solubilities of the officinal Chemicals in Water and in Alcohol, at 15.5° C. (= 60° F.), and at their boiling points.

g. Alcoholometrical Table.

h. Acidimetrical Tables (meaning tables of the specific gravity of acids).

i. List of Reagents, for qualitative and quantitative—including volumetric—use, of a fixed strength or dilution, and accompanied by a brief statement of their use.

k. Table of the Elementary Substances, with their symbols, atomicity, atomic weight, etc.

l. Weight and Volume Table. To facilitate the use of parts by weight (or, of the decimal system), in compounding, prescribing, and dispensing medicines, a table exhibiting the relationship between the weight and the measure of a given volume of any liquid pre-

paration may be added. This should contain all the officinal liquids in alphabetical order.

m. Table of the Specific Gravity of officinal Liquids for each degree between 10 and 25° C. (= 50–77° F.).

n. A Table comparing the Strength of powerful Galenical Preparations of foreign Pharmacopœias used in this country, with that of the corresponding Preparations of our own.

o. A Table exhibiting the Differences in Strength of the Preparations, as made according to the present and the new U. S. Ph.

p. A Table of Thermometric Equivalents.

r. A Saturation-Table.

s. Any other Tables which the Committee may deem expedient.

t. A full Index containing all the Synonyms should conclude the book, with marks of accent, to indicate pronunciation, as heretofore.

II. Resolutions regarding the Duties of the Committee of Revision, and the Duties of the Officers of the Convention.

1. *Title of Committee.*—Resolved, that the title of Committee be: "The Committee of Revision and Publication of the Pharmacopœia of the United States of America."

2. *Vacancies.*—Resolved, that the Committee of Revision and Publication be empowered to fill its own vacancies.

3. *Dropping of Members.*—Resolved, that any member of the Committee of Revision and Publication, who shall neglect to perform the duties which have been assigned to and accepted by him, without presenting to the Committee a satisfactory excuse, may be dropped from membership, and that his place be filled by a new appointment by the Committee, consent of two-thirds of the entire Committee being requisite for so dropping a member.

4. *Employment of Experts.*—Resolved, that the Committee of Revision and Publication be authorized to employ skilled experts to make such trials and investigations as may be necessary to enable the Committee to pass intelligent judgment upon the details of the work before it, such trials and investigations to be made under the direction of the Committee.

5. *Publication of the Pharmacopœia.*—Resolved, that the Committee of Revision and Publication be instructed to award the publication of the United States Pharmacopœia to the publishing house offering the best terms; the Committee to hold the copyright; the price of the book to be limited, and the book to be sold through the ordinary trade channels. Action under this resolution shall require the approval of a majority of the whole Committee.

6. *Supplements to the Pharmacopœia.*—Resolved, that the Committee be authorized and directed to publish a supplement at the end of five years,—or oftener, if deemed expedient.

7. *Plan for the next Decennial Revision.*—Resolved, that the Committee shall report a complete plan for the revision of the Pharmacopœia at the next decennial Convention.

8. *Turning over Papers to next Convention.*—Resolved, that the Committee of Revision and Publica-

tion be instructed to turn over to the Convention of 1890 all the papers relative to their Proceedings.

9. *Calling the Convention of 1890.*—Resolved, that the President of this Convention shall, on or about the first day of May, 1889, issue a notice requesting the several incorporated Medical Societies, the incorporated Medical Colleges, the incorporated Colleges of Pharmacy and incorporated Pharmaceutical Societies throughout the United States, and the American Medical, and American Pharmaceutical Associations, to elect a number of delegates, not exceeding three, and the Surgeon-General of the Army, the Surgeon-General of the Navy, and the Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service, to appoint each not exceeding three medical officers, to attend a general Convention for the Revision of the Pharmacopœia of the United States, to be held in Washington, D. C., on the first Wednesday of May, 1890.

Resolved, that the several bodies, as well as the medical departments of the Army, Navy, and Marine Hospital Service thus addressed, shall also be requested by the President to submit the Pharmacopœia to a careful revision and to transmit the result of their labors, through their Delegates, to the Committee of Revision, at least three months before the next meeting of the Convention.

Resolved, that the several medical and pharmaceutical bodies shall be further requested to transmit to the President of this Convention the names and residences of their respective Delegates, as soon as they shall have been appointed; a list of whom shall be published, under his authority, for the information of the medical public, in the newspapers and medical journals, in the month of March, 1890.

10. *Providing for Succession to the President, in case of his Death, Resignation or Inability to act.*—Resolved, that in the event of the death, resignation, or inability of the President of the Convention to act, these duties shall devolve, successively, in the following order of precedence: upon the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Assistant-Secretary, and the Chairman of the Committee of Revision and Publication of the Pharmacopœia.

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